

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Previously Presented) A wheel end assembly comprising:
 - a spindle defining an axis of rotation;
 - a first wheel hub supported for rotation about said axis;
 - at least one first bearing member supporting said first wheel hub on said spindle for rotation about said axis;
 - a second wheel hub supported for rotation about said axis adjacent to said first wheel hub;
 - at least one second bearing member supporting said second wheel hub on said spindle for rotation about said axis; and
 - at least one bushing mounted between said first and second wheel hubs and axially and radially engaging said first and second wheel hubs relative to said axis to support axial and radial loads between said first and second wheel hubs thereby permitting said first and second wheel hubs to rotate independently from each other.
2. (Previously Presented) An assembly as set forth in claim 1 including a fastener mounted on one end of said spindle to prevent linear movement of said first and second wheel hubs along said axis.
3. (Previously Presented) An assembly as set forth in claim 1 wherein said at least one first bearing member is a single bearing and said at least one second bearing member is a single bearing.
- 4-6. (Canceled).
7. (Previously Presented) An assembly as set forth in claim 1 wherein said bushing is a bronze bushing.
8. (Previously Presented) An assembly as set forth in claim 1 wherein said bushing is a nylon-coated steel bushing.

9. (Previously Presented) An assembly as set forth in claim 1 wherein said bushing is solely supported between said first and second wheel hubs to permit said first and second wheel hubs to rotate independently from each other under predetermined conditions.

10-14. (Canceled).

15. (Previously Presented) An assembly as set forth in claim 1 wherein said bushing is located at a greater radial distance away from said axis than said first and second bearing members.

16-17. (Canceled).

18. (Previously Presented) An assembly as set forth in claim 1 wherein said bushing includes first and second abutting surfaces perpendicular to one another and said first abutting surface axially engages said first wheel hub and said second abutting surface radially engages said first wheel hub.

19. (Previously Presented) An assembly as set forth in claim 18 wherein said bushing includes first and second bearing surfaces perpendicular to one another and said first bearing surface axially engages said second wheel hub and said second bearing surface radially engages said second wheel hub.

20. (Previously Presented) A wheel end assembly comprising:

- a spindle defining an axis of rotation;
- an inner wheel hub supported for rotation about said axis;
- at least one first bearing member supporting said inner wheel hub on said spindle for rotation about said axis;
- an outer wheel hub supported for rotation about said axis;
- at least one second bearing member supporting said outer wheel hub on said spindle for rotation about said axis;
- a middle wheel hub positioned between said inner and outer wheel hubs for rotation about said axis;
- at least one third bearing member mounted between said inner and middle wheel hubs to permit said inner and middle wheel hubs to rotate independently from each other;
- and
- at least one fourth bearing member mounted between said middle and outer wheel hubs to permit said middle and outer wheel hubs to rotate independently from each other.

21. (Previously Presented) An assembly as set forth in claim 20 wherein said at least one third bearing member is solely supported between said inner and middle wheel hubs to permit said inner and middle wheel hubs to rotate independently from each other and wherein said at least one fourth bearing member is solely supported between said middle and outer wheel hubs to permit said middle and outer wheel hubs to rotate independently from each other.

22. (Previously Presented) An assembly as set forth in claim 20 including at least one fastening element retaining said wheel hubs on said spindle to prevent linear movement of said wheel hubs along said axis.